(c) and (d) The crude petroleum sector registered a negative growth of (-) 1.2 percent during 2001-02 in comparison to a growth of 1.5 percent registered during 2000-01. Ageing of oil fields and no major oil discovery in the last decade are main reasons for decline in crude petroleum sector.

(e) The Government has taken steps to promote infrastructure development which include Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme. As a result of these initiatives, the six infrastructure industries have witnessed recovery. A rising trend in growth rates for these industries is evident since beginning of the current fiscal year (2002-03).

Tea export to Iraq

2539. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has decided to drop tea from its list of imports in the forth coming phase XII of the food for work programme;

(b) if so, in what manner it would affect the exports of Indian tea to Iraq; and

(c) the total quantity of tea exported to Iraq during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. On the other hand, India remains a priority supplier of tea to Iraq.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total quantity of tea exported from India to Iraq during the last five years is given below.

Year (in million kg.)	Quantity
1997	1.30
1998	10.12
1999	7.10
2000	10.87
2001	16.86
2002(Jan.-Oct.)	36.33

ASSOCHAM for removal of tax discrimination

2540. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to give a fillip to project exports, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has recommended removal of tax discrimination between product and project exporters, increased deduction on income from royalties and patents, rationalization of tax treatment for joint ventures and exemption from Customs duty for used equipment;

(b) if so, whether both the Finance and Commerce Ministry have agreed to the suggestions made; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has submitted suggestions on project export promotion to the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade & Investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs. The Task Force has to give recommendations on export promotion of project exports. The Task Force consists of representatives from various Government Ministries/ Departments and Trade Bodies. The Task Force has to submit specific